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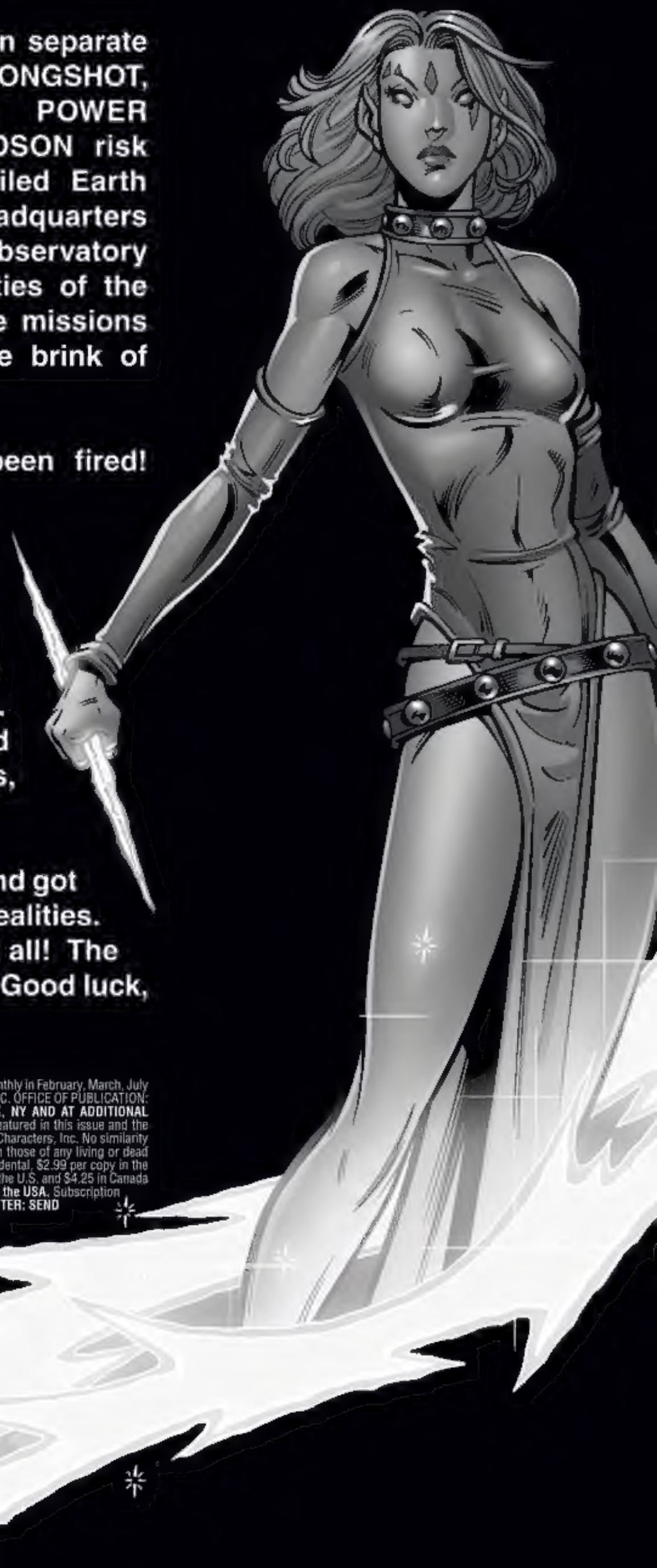
EXILES®

Previously in EXILES:

Gathered together from their own separate realities, BLINK, SABRETOOTH, LONGSHOT, MORPH, SPIDER-MAN 2099, POWER PRINCESS and HEATHER HUDSON risk their lives to save one imperiled Earth after another. From their headquarters in the "Crystal Palace"—an observatory overlooking the countless realities of the Multiverse—the Exiles undertake missions to save alternate Earths on the brink of disaster.

Most recently, the team had been fired! The creatures, known as the TIME BREAKERS, got rid of the Exiles, and drafted team after team of alternate reality WOLVERINES to take down an extremely powerful mutant that threatened all of existence. Eventually, the Exiles got involved and with the help of the Wolverines, were able to save the day.

The Exiles were then reinstated and got back to the business of saving realities. Next up, a world with no world at all! The planet Earth has been destroyed! Good luck, Exiles!



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YOU'RE **SURE** THIS THING'S SPACE-WORTHY?

RELAX, MORPH. THIS IS THE FINEST PRODUCTION-MODEL ORBITER AVAILABLE WHERE I COME FROM.

RIIIGHT. 2099 A.D., WHERE YOU CROSS THE WRONG **WIRES** AND END UP SHOOTIN' **WEBS** OUT YOUR BUTT...

THEY DO NOT COME OUT OF MY BUTT--!

THIS JUST FEELS **WRONG.**

HOW SO, CLARICE? THERE IS NO SIGN OF TROUBLE YET.

I KNOW, LONGSHOT...

...BUT USUALLY WE SHOW UP **BEFORE** THE END OF THE WORLD.

SABRETOOTH, TELL DOCTOR O'HARA YOUR OBJECTIVE IS THREE HUNDRED KILOMETERS AHEAD, JUST PAST THAT CHUNK OF HIMALAYAS.

WISH I HAD MORE DETAILS, BUT THIS UNIVERSE IS PRETTY MUCH A BLIND SPOT ON THE REALITY INDEX.

ABOUT THE ONLY THING IT'S SHOWING ME IS WHO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAVE...

HEATHER SAYS OUR TARGET'S DEAD AHEAD.

BUT GO IN SLOW AN' STEALTHY. SOMETHIN'S NOT QUITE RIGHT.

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, SABRETOOTH...

"...LOOKS LIKE WE SHOWED UP JUST IN TIME."

SUPERGUARDIANS PART 1 OF 2

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YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE PEOPLE?

SOME OF THEM, YEAH. WE MET BEFORE...IN ANOTHER LIFE...

"*IMPERIAL GUARD*--THE GREATEST HEROES GATHERED FROM ACROSS THE *SHI'AR* GALACTIC EMPIRE. WE FOUGHT *ALONGSIDE* THEM ON ONE OF OUR FIRST MISSIONS. OF COURSE, THAT WAS A *DIFFERENT* REALITY.

"THAT STONE *GIANT* IS THE ONE HEATHER SENT US TO *RESCUE*...

"...AND IT'S A PRETTY SAFE BET THE GUY ON THE *SURF-BOARD* IS WHAT WE'RE HERE TO SAVE HIM FROM..."

DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE *HIM?*

SHOULD I...?

THAT'S THE *SILVER SURFER!* HERALD OF *GALACTUS!* WIELDER OF THE *POWER COSMIC!*

"I WORKED FOR A TIME AT A PLACE CALLED *PROJECT: PEGASUS* WHERE THEY STUDIED SUCH BEINGS. THEY CLASSIFIED THE SURFER AS A *PLANETARY THREAT.*

"MY FRIENDS, IF THE *CHAMPIONS* OF A THOUSAND SHI'AR WORLDS CANNOT STOP HIM, I FEAR THE SIX OF US SITTING IN THIS TIN CAN DON'T HAVE A *PRAYER.*"

SPIDER-MAN, HOW QUICKLY CAN YOU GET US THERE?

COUPLE OF MINUTES, BUT THIS CRATE ISN'T ARMED...

"JUST FLY, MIGUEL. I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING."

GO, MANTA. SUMMON REINFORCE-MENTS.

GLADIATOR, NO! I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU TO DIE!

MY DEATH IS NOT THE ONE YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT. NOW GO!

TURNCOAT! I KNOW NOT IF YOU SENSE OUR THOUGHTCASTS, BUT NEVERTHELESS, BE WARNED...

SO LONG AS MY CAUSE IS RIGHTEOUS, I CANNOT FAIL!

IS THAT SO?

TO ME, MY BOARD!

HOLY CHEEZ...!

NOW, OLD MAN, YOU'VE NO ONE LEFT TO HIDE BEHIND.

I DEMAND WHAT YOU ONCE PROMISED ME!

I WOULD GIVE THE HOLIEST OF HOLIES TO HIM WHO DECEIVED ME? WHO DOES HIS UTMOST TO MURDER ME?

NO, NORRIN RADD. YOU ARE UNWORTHY AND UNCLEAN.

THEN WHAT I ONCE ASKED OF YOU WILLINGLY, I SHALL TAKE FROM YOUR CORPSE!

BLINK

HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!

YES!

DON'T STOP NOW, PUP GET BACK OUT THERE AN' KEEP BLINKIN' EVERY-THING YA CAN AT HIM.

BLINNK

I'M ON IT, VICTOR.

SPIDER-MAN, KEEP THE SHIP WHERE THE SURFER CAN'T SEE--

FORGIVE ME, CHILD...BUT I HAVE NEED OF YOU.

BLINK?

BLINK, ANSWER ME!

THAT WAS A NEW TRICK FOR YOU, OLD MAN. HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING THAT TALENT ALL THESE YEARS?

I HID NOTHING FROM YOU...AND PAID THE PRICE...FOR LACK OF GUILE...

...AN ERROR I'LL NOT REPEAT!

BLINK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

BLOOONK

TO ME, MY BOARD!

!

THIS IS FAR FROM OVER, OLD MAN!

WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?

BLINK! WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN US?

...UNHHH...

DON'T BLAME *HER*, POWER PRINCESS...

...BLAME WHATEVER TOOK *CONTROL* OF HER.

...TOO... FAR...

...OHHH...

ONCE AGAIN I ASK, WHERE *ARE* WE?

HAD TO BE FAIRLY CLOSE BY. BLINK'S USUAL *RANGE* ISN'T MUCH MORE THAN A HUNDRED MILES.

SHWOOM

I *AUGMENTED* HER TALENT...TO *BANISH* MY FOE...

...WAS IT MORE...THAN SHE COULD BEAR?

NO. SHE WILL *LIVE.*

GOOD... GOOD...

...THOUGH I FEAR...

...I...WILL *NOT.*

THOOM

HE'S OUT.

SWELL. SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

I'D ASK HEATHER, BUT THE TALLUS WENT DEAD THE MINUTE WE GOT CLOSE TO THIS GUY. HE'S GOTTA BE THE SOURCE OF HER BLIND SPOT."

PERHAPS I CAN HELP.

WITH WHAT? A LUCKY GUESS?

LUCK IS NOT MY ONLY GIFT, SABRETOOTH.

THERE IS ANOTHER TALENT I POSSESS...

SOMETIMES, MERELY BY TOUCHING AN OBJECT, I GLIMPSE ITS HISTORY AND PURPOSE...

PARA-PSYCHOLOGISTS CALL THAT PHENOMENON "PSYCHOMETRY." OF COURSE, THAT'S JUST PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC MUMBO--

--JUMBO.

+GASP+

ZAP

THWIPP

SHOULD'VE *KNOWN* THAT'D BE LIKE STICKING YOUR TONGUE INSIDE A *POWER-SOCKET.*

...NN... NO...NO...IT *WORKED...!*

I SAW IT...I SAW IT AL----

HIS NAME IS *GALACTUS!*

ARE YOU TELLING ME *THAT* IS THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS?!

NO, ZARDA.

IN *THIS* UNIVERSE, HE IS THE *RESTORER* OF WORLDS.

"IT SEEMS SOME SORT OF **BLIGHT** AFFLICTS ALL THE WORLDS IN THIS COSMOS, RENDERING THEM BARREN AND LIFELESS. GALACTUS IS THE **CURE.**

"HE BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO DEAD PLANETS. IT IS HIS COSMIC PURPOSE AND HIS JOYFUL DUTY.

"HE IS **REVERED** ACROSS THE GALAXY. MANY CULTURES **WORSHIP** HIM AS A GOD

"FOR EONS, GALACTUS HAS TRAVELED THE STARS IN HIS **WORLD-SHIP**, SEEKING DEAD PLANETS. IN FACT, WE ARE **WITHIN** THAT SHIP RIGHT NOW."

"UNFORTUNATELY, THE BLIGHT KILLS WORLDS *FASTER* THAN GALACTUS CAN FIND AND REVIVE THEM.

"GALACTUS IMBUED HIM WITH THE *POWER COSMIC* AND GAVE HIM THE MEANS TO RANGE THROUGH THE GALAXY, SEARCHING OUT PLANETS MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN GALACTUS EVER COULD.

"HE THEN PROMISED TO ONE DAY *PASS ON* TO THE SURFER THE SECRET OF HEALING BROKEN WORLDS.

SO A SCIENTIST NAMED *NORRIN RADD*, FROM A PLANET CALLED ZENN-LA, PROPOSED A *SOLUTION* TO THIS DILEMMA...

"BUT NORRIN RADD WAS NOT ENTIRELY *TRUTHFUL* WHEN HE FIRST APPROACHED GALACTUS.

"HE HAD BEEN A *MILITARY* SCIENTIST, AND HIS GREATEST INVENTION HAD LAID WASTE TO HIS OWN HOMEWORLD.

"HIS REAL OBJECTIVE WAS TO *TRICK* GALACTUS INTO RESURRECTING *ZENN-LA*..."

"BUT GALACTUS *ONLY* RESTORES WORLDS CLAIMED BY COSMIC BLIGHT. ZENN-LA'S FATE CAME AT ITS OWN HANDS, AND HE REFUSED TO INTERVENE.

"SO THE SURFER TURNED HIS POWER ONTO THOSE WHO HAD WORSHIPPED HIS MASTER.

"AND HAVING WREAKED SUCH HAVOC, THE SURFER RESOLVED TO STEAL GALACTUS' POWER FOR HIMSELF.

"THE SHI'AR EMPIRE SENT THEIR MIGHTIEST HEROES TO STOP HIS INTERSTELLAR RAMPAGE..."

...AND THAT IS WHERE WE CAME IN.

YOU GOT ALL THAT FROM JUST TOUCHING HIM?

WHEN THIS IS OVER, TELL ME WHAT POWER PRINCESS'S BRA HAS TO SAY--!

WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?

GIVE ME A YEAR OR TWO AND I MIGHT FIGURE OUT HOW TO DRIVE THIS VESSEL...

Y'THINK GALACTUS COULD FIX THAT WRECKED EARTH OUT THERE?

...OHHH... HEAD'S KILLING...

EASY, PUP. YER BRAIN GOT HIJACKED BY A FLIPPIN' SPACE-GOD.

I... REMEMBER...

...COULDN'T... STOP HIM...

...HE SENT THE SURFER...FAR AWAY... MUCH FARTHER THAN I COULD'VE...

NEVERTHELESS, THE BETRAYER WILL RETURN BEFORE LONG. WE MUST GET THE RESTORER OF WORLDS TO SAFETY.

WHO...?

I AM MANTA, OF THE SHI'AR SUPER-GUARDIANS.

MY HUSBAND GLADIATOR SENT ME TO SUMMON HELP, THOUGH I FEAR I WAS NOT SWIFT ENOUGH...

DID YOU BRING HELP?

YES. THE MAJESTRIX DEEMS GALACTUS HER TOP PRIORITY.

THOSE WHO RISK THEIR LIVES IN HIS DEFENSE MAY COUNT US AS *ALLIES.*

BUT THE IMPERIAL *BATTLE CRUISER* I BROUGHT WITH ME WOULD STAND EVEN *LESS* CHANCE AGAINST THE SURFER THAN DID MY FALLEN COMRADES.

THE STARSHIP WILL TOW US TO *IMPERIAL CENTER.*

SHOW SOME *RESPECT.* IT IS THE THRONE WORLD OF MIGHTY *LILANDRA,* EMPRESS OF THE GALAXY.

SOUNDS LIKE A SHOPPING MALL.

ONCE THERE, WE MUST PRAY HER MAJESTY'S PHYSICIANS CAN *HEAL* GREAT GALACTUS BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THAT BACKSTABBING *FIEND...*

WE ARE UNDERWAY, MAJESTRIX. TRACTOR LOCK POSITIVE, HYPER-DRIVE ENGAGED...

VERY GOOD, MANTA.

AND TO OUR NEW **ALLIES**, OUR THANKS FOR RESCUING THE GREAT RESTORER.

WE WOULD OFFER YOU THE CHANCE TO **AVENGE** YOUR HOME-WORLD.

THOUGH EARTH WAS **NOT** OF THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM, THE FATE OF **ALL** LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE IS NOW OUR COMMON CAUSE...

"WE THEREFORE INVITE YOU TO **JOIN** THE RANKS OF OUR IMPERIAL GUARD, FOR WHAT MAY WELL BE OUR **FINAL** BATTLE."

NEXT: LAST STAND AT IMPERIAL CENTER!